



The Innocents

Matthew 25:31-46, Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:4-5; Luke 1:15
Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

In this new series, we will raise the issue of caring for the “least of these” and take a hard look at what the Lord wants to say to us about how we are to respond. Today we focus on the value of life, the protection of the innocent, and consider practical things we can do. What is the value of a human life? Can we place a price tag on it? In our society, it often seems as though human life is significantly de-valued. What does the Bible say to us about this?

Engaging with each other

1. Share about a time in your life when you felt that you had been marginalized in some way.

Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Matthew 25:37-40. Who comes to mind when you hear the phrase “the least of these?” To whom was Jesus referring?
2. Read Genesis 1:26-27. To have a truly meaningful approach as we discuss the unborn, our foundational thought must be to know that God is the author of all life and that we are created in His image. What does this mean? What are some of the attributes that make us different than any other living thing?
3. Read Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:4-5, and Luke 1:15. In each of these passages, what is communicated about each of the lives mentioned? What is the significance of this truth and what does it mean for the inherent value of the unborn? Why do you think this is what Paul emphasizes?

4. In light of this message and study, what is our obligation to protect the innocents?

Engaging with our lives

1. What is the connection between the care of the “least of these” and caring for the poor?
2. What actions can we take to care for:
 - The unborn
 - Mothers and their children
3. What are some of the things that get in the way of us making a difference in the life of a mother or child in need?
4. If you knew of someone who’d had an abortion, what would it look like for you to show love towards them?
5. For personal reflection: What next step am I willing to commit to, in order to make a difference for the least of these in my local community?